(c) and (d) Exports have registered a high growth of 25.55% in dollar terms during April-January, 2004-05 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

(e) A new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) was announced in August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's share of global merchandise trade within the next five years. Some of the key strategies adopted in the FTP include; simplification of procedures, reduction in transaction cost, neutralisation of incidence of all levies and duties on Inputs used for exports, Identification of special focus areas like agriculture, handlooms, handicraft, gems and jewellery, leather and footwear for further promotion. In addition, Export Promotion Schemes like 'Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna' (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme) and 'Target Plus' have been introduced to further accelerate growth of exports.

Setting up of Retail Economic Zones

183. SHRI RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Retail Economic Zones on the lines of SEZs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the representatives of the retailers in the country are demanding for having a separate economic zone for retail goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received from the representatives of the retailers for setting up a separate economic zone for retail goods.